to all the States/UTs on monthly basis for distribution under Public Distribution System. For the year 2001-2002, monthly allocation of 43408 MTs (55780 Kls) has been made for the State of Karnataka. Government of India has not received any request for increasing the quota of kerosene in place of sugar taken away from the PDS.

Visit of Chief of Air Staff to China

3372. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Air Staff paid a visit to China during the month of May, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the purpose; and

(c) the details of the achievements in bilateral military relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief of Air Staff paid a goodwill visit to the Peoples Republic of China from 20th to 26th May, 2001, at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart.

(c) During the visit, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral military issues of mutual interest with a view to enhancing mutual understanding.

MIG crash during "Operation Poorna Vijay"

3373. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MIG-21 crashed during the military exercise "Operation Poorna Vijay" held in Rajasthan recently killing the pilot;

(b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the circumstances leading to the crash;

(c) whether with the high incidents of MIG-21 crashes and deaths of the pilots, Government have considered the question of safety of flying the aircraft and the pilots training and instructional procedures besides modifications of fleet and weeding out the outdated Aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) There was MIG-21 Cat-I accident of 6th May, 2001 during the military exercise "Operation Poorna Vijay" in which pilot was fatally injured.

(b) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered and is presently under progress.

(c) and (d) Government has consistently addressed this responsibility and taken all due remedial measures to reduce accident rates. These amongst others, include:

(i) every accident/incident is investigated by an independent Court of Inquiry, with the appropriate sense of urgency, cause(s) determined, and all remedial measures warranted taken;

(ii) to avoid accidents caused by the factor of human error, measures have been undertaken to constantly improve the quality of training;

(iii) for technical defects, constant interaction with HAL is maintained also where necessary Original Equipment Manufacturers consulted; and

(iv) to reduce bird hits, measures are constantly being implemented.

Passing information relating to IFA Purchases

3374. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Ex IAF men held for commercial espionage" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 28th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the persons arrested by the CBI for passing information relating to confidential IAF purchases to dealers;

(c) whether Government have lost a lot of revenue on purchase of new aircrafts by the "Communication Squadron"; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Government are aware of the said news report.

(b) CBI has recently arrested four retired and one serving Air Force personnel, one official working in the Ministry of Defence and some others.